

TABLET BRIEFS

Welcome to our new Tablet Briefs

New Format, New Design

We are excited to share with you our new "Tablet Briefs" highlighting synagogue events and special articles shared by our leadership. We listened to your suggestions based on our recent survey and hope to bring you the information you are looking for all in once place.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer!

This Month's Featured Articles

- Letter from our new president, Alan Chalfin
- An exciting concert, Hope from the Harp, assisting Ukranian families



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Rabbi Kahn's sudden departure left many of you unsettled and with a hundred questions. At the annual meeting your concerns were clear: You had questions and wanted a chance to be heard. The two open forums we held in April gave many of you an opportunity to voice your concerns. We listened. You wanted to know what our plan is going forward. I'm pleased to inform you that the board asked Chazzan Abramson to become our senior clergy member and spiritual leader and he has graciously accepted! He will be our sole senior clergy person for the foreseeable future.

We have weathered the storm and will come out stronger! I'm pleased to inform you that the Board has approved the reopening of the kitchen and Jerry Thomas has volunteered to be our kitchen coordinator - thank you Jerry! Keep your eyes and ears open, the welcome receptions are coming back! The promised quarterly open forums are being scheduled and will be announced shortly.

Together, we will continue to build our *k'hilah k'doshah*, a sacred community.

L'shalom,
Alan Chalfin, President



From Chazzan Abramson

HOPE FROM THE HARP

Tikkun Olam begins one step at a time and we are taking those steps here at Temple Sinai. Harpist Giuseppina Ciarla, the international recording star and principal harpist at the Sarasota Opera here in the United States, has graciously agreed to do a benefit concert at Temple Sinai to raise funds to aid the victims of the war in Ukraine. This concert, "Hope from the Harp," takes place on Sunday, June 26 at 5:00pm. You will not only have the opportunity to see a truly exquisite and rare solo harp and voice concert, but you will also have the opportunity to do your part in aiding in an important cause.

Our intention is that Hope from the Harp will raise awareness and funds for a cause which desperately needs our support. Ms. Ciarla will be playing music from her international bestselling collection of new and well-known pieces from the United States release of her album "A Ticket Home." It is our hope that in addition to attending you will spread the word of this event to everyone you may know in the community.

We hope that the Jewish community will be 100 percent in attendance and help us reach the fundraising goals for this event. This is an opportunity to exemplify what Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel once said about the Jewish responsibility to help repair what is broken in the world. To quote Rabbi Heschel: "Who is a Jew? A person whose integrity decays when unmoved by the knowledge of wrong done to other people."

This important event is a truly collaborative effort. The gracious generosity of Giuseppina Ciarla, combined with the major efforts of Dr. Michael Gordon and Andrea Eiffert, have made this concert possible. Having had but a few rare opportunities to collaborate with Ms. Ciarla on musical events in the past, I know how lucky we are that this has all come together. The only additional help we need is you. We look forward to seeing you there!

L'shalom,
Chazzan Abramson

This is not simply a "save the date" article. It is more like a "save the world" article.



From Elyse Gordon

MAY 1 ANNUAL MEETING BRIEF

Chazzan Abramson's message was "every endeavor that takes place here is an attempt to make the world a better place. We can take the first step today." He says the *shema* prayer is speaking from the heart and Temple Sinai will come together to do just that.

New business:

- A proposed amendment to allow non-Jewish members to serve on the Board, with the exceptions of the positions of president or president-elect, was tabled for future discussion.
- New board of trustees was approved. Six (6) board members are leaving and there are six (6) new members.
- VP of Facilities David Weiss reported that enhanced security features are coming soon. The synagogue has received a federal grant to install additional security items and technologies. The social hall is back in use and ready for services for the High Holy Days. It has been handling breakfast, luncheons, dinners, *b'nai mitzvah* parties and more. In the past, Temple Sinai has received \$40,000 in revenue from these events.

Question and Answers:

- Rabbi Huntting urged the board members to serve like an ombudsman for the entire congregation to try to avoid having issues of lack of trust or transparency. New board President Alan Chalfin said he would hold quarterly open forum sessions to address congregant concerns and that board meetings are open to the public.
- Several questions were related to the situation behind Rabbi Kahn's departure and unsubstantiated rumors. Immediate Past President Ellyn Bender and board trustee Jason Collier reminded everyone that for legal reasons they can't be discussed.
- Greg Band spoke with several others and said he was part of the Concerned Members of Sinai, a non-board group that had formed due to the concerns of unhappy staff members, rabbinical issues and financial concerns. They want to expand the size of the board and work with the board to make Sinai a warm and friendly environment.
- Ellyn addressed the issue of whether Sinai will look for someone to fill a second clergy position to work with Chazzan Abramson. She said at this time the synagogue membership is too small to support a second clergy member.

WHO WE ARE

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION



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Social Action Highlight

TIKKUN OLAM: DO GOOD, FEEL GOOD

By Jim Wolfson

Temple Sinai is excited to announce two program initiatives: Ozrim (meaning “helpers” in Hebrew) and the relaunch of the Social Action and Justice Committee (SAJC). Each of these programs is designed to: foster stronger connections between our synagogue members, improve the lives of others and focus on social issues, all with the goal of creating positive change while encouraging volunteerism.

Participants in the Ozrim program will provide or receive assistance from each other for things like rides, meals, financial record keeping, companionship, etc. SAJC will sponsor events to educate and increase awareness of issues affecting our community and match congregants with social service agencies needing volunteers to support their efforts in combating issues like hunger, homelessness, addiction and the criminal justice system.



We hope you will want to participate in these efforts. Why? Here are some good reasons: it adds meaning and purpose to your life, effects positive change, supports Jewish values, builds community and empowers you. Put more succinctly: do good, feel good.

What are the next steps? [Click here](#) to take our 5-minute social action survey and let us know you want to get involved. We are also looking for volunteers to join our steering committee.

Save the date for our Ozrim Open House event on Sunday, October 23 at 10:00am. For more information, contact Andrea Eiffert at: aeiffert@templesinai-sarasota.org.



Upcoming Featured Events



TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

Saturday, June 4 • 5 Sivan
7:30PM - 9:30PM

Shavuot commemorates the spring harvest and the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. Join us for a film and discussion moderated by Rabbi Geoff Hunting. Ice cream will be served.

The program will consist of a film and presentation on the rise of the religious right. As we celebrate the giving of the Jewish law, how do we, as Jews, interpret these laws? To what extent does religious law inform secular society? What does this mean to us? To other communities in the US? To Israel?

HOPE FROM THE HARP

Sunday, June 26 • 27 Sivan
5:00PM-6:30PM

Benefit concert for Ukrainian refugees featuring the Principal harpist for the Sarasota Opera, Giuseppina Ciarla.

Event in-person and on livestream.

Suggested donation: \$36 per adult and \$18 per student. 100% of donations will go to Emergency USA to assist Ukrainian refugees.



FOR MORE EVENTS VISIT: www.temple Sinai-sarasota.org

TRIBUTES

TEMPLE SINAI GENERAL FUND

Aravilla

Betty and Richard Greenspan

In Appreciation of:

Jason Collier, for all the support
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Bender and Pamela Paschall

Jamie and Mark Heisler and Harriet and
Richard Heisler: Paula and Arnold
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Speedy Recovery of:

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Carol R. Brock: Paula and Arnold
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Laurie and Mark Criden

Patricia Glah

In Honor of:

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service as Membership Chair: Cindy and
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Chazzan Cliff Abramson, who is a
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Sinai: Lorraine Asarch

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challenging circumstances: Gail
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Speedy Recovery of:

Sheila Namiot: Ellyn Bender and Pamela
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Sheila Namiot: Elana and Mark Margolis

In Memory of:

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Mark Margolis

Amy Hahn, daughter of Laurie and Mark
Criden: Kathryn and Richard Stern

Amy Hahn: Marilyn and Paul Blankman

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Sandra Siegel: Geri Jo Manson

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HORAY SINAI FUND

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Women of Sinai

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Sam Stone, father of Jerold: Beth and
Jerold Stone

Hinda Stone, sister-in-law of Jerold:
Beth and Jerold Stone

Thank you

YAHREZEITS

(WE REMEMBER THEM)

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and Mollie Andriesse

Lorraine Asarch for grandmother,
Bessie Asarch, grandfather, Saul Asarch
and aunt, Ruth Panor

Marilyn and Paul Blankman for Larry
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Gofman and Pauline Gofman

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and Ruth Strohl

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Murray Hirsh

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Anna Meltz Graber

Susanne and Henry Mosler for Alberta
Mosler

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beloved wife of Marvin, Barbara Rosen

Harriet and Marc Rosen for Samuel
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Naomi Weinstein

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Laura and Paul Zatz for Meyer Zatz

Zichronam Livracha -
May their memories
be for a blessing.

